



CITY OF NEWBURYPORT
OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
DONNA D. HOLADAY, MAYOR
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September 28, 2011

Dear Neighbor/Resident:

Please be advised that the Newburyport Wastewater Treatment Plant has been experiencing odor problems in recent weeks. This situation is primarily due to the ongoing construction of improvements at the plant and is expected to be short term in nature. As always, we are working to control odors to the maximum extent possible. However, the biological treatment process at the plant is being stressed while this work is being performed.

Presently, there is only one secondary clarifier in service as the other clarifier has been taken off-line to allow the General Contractor to perform his work, including concrete repairs to the walls and floor of the tank, cleaning and painting of the clarifier rakes, and replacement of the clarifier drive mechanisms. In an effort to minimize the disturbance to residents and neighbors of the facility, this work was not started until mid-September due to the potential for odor problems and plant upset during the hot and humid weather that is typical in July and August.

During this past summer, we emptied and evacuated tanks that usually run 24 hours a day, phased in new pieces of the plant equipment, and terminated the use of older parts of the process. All of this work was completed while the plant continued to operate, and more importantly, stay within the discharge limits permitted by the EPA. However, operating the plant with only one secondary clarifier in service is a challenge for us at this time, and the plant staff is working hard to control odors and maintain the same high level of treatment. That being said, we appreciate the patience and understanding of our neighbors during the completion of this phase of the project.

If you should have any questions or require additional information, please call me at 978-465-4422.

Very truly yours,

Joseph Dugan
Newburyport Sewer Department

Donna D. Holaday
Mayor